

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01 INT-08 FPC-01 L-03 PM-07 DODE-00

CIEP-02 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 XMB-07 OPIC-12

IGA-02 SCEM-02 DOTE-00 EURE-00 /120 W

----- 085550

P 291608Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7035

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3196

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, UR, US, NO

SUBJ: NORTH STAR PROJECT

REF: MOSCOW 10133

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED INADVERTENTLY FROM A FOREIGN MINISTRY ECONOMIC OFFICIAL THAT TEXAS EASTERN VICE PRESIDENT KENDALL PLANS TO VISIT OSLO ON HIS WAY BACK FROM MOSCOW. WE HAD UNDERSTOOD THIS MIGHT HAPPEN BUT DO NOT HAVE THE DATES OF SCHEDULED VISIT.

2. IF PARA 5 MOSCOW'S 10133 REPRESENTS CONSORTIUM'S PRESENT ATTITUDE TOWARD CONSTRUCTION OF LIQUEFACTION PLANT AND PORT ON NORWEGIAN TERRITORY, WE HOPE KENDALL PLANS TO MAKE THIS CLEAR TO THE NORWEGIANS, AND NOT STRING THEM ALONG WITH FALSE HOPES. THERE IS OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERABLE INTEREST ON NORWEGIAN SIDE IN ATTRACTING INDUSTRY TO FINNMARK. IT IS BETTER THAT KENDALL LET THEM DOWN GENTLY NOW RATHER THAN WAITING FOR CABINET TO MEET AND PERHAPS MAKE POSITIVE DECISION THAT PROJECT IS IN NORWAY'S NATIONAL INTEREST. WHILE WE HAVE TRIED TO DISCOURAGE NORWEGIANS FROM ASSUMING THAT PROJECT IN NORTH WILL MATERIALIZE, THEY WERE GIVEN SALES TALK BY KENDALL ON HIS PREVIOUS VISIT. NORWEGIANS TEND TO READ OUR ENCOURAGEMENT TO THEM TO MEET WITH KENDALL AS AN INDICATION OF

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FAVORABLE DEPARTMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FINNMARK PROJECT AND

THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT RISKS RUBBING OFF ON USG.

3. IN LIGHT OF STATE 170267 WE INTEND TO TAKE NO INITIATIVE ON THIS END. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD MEET WITH MR. KENDALL WHEN HE COMES TO OSLO TO GET A BETTER FEEL FOR RAMIFICATIONS OF LNG PROJECT, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO INTEREST THE NORWEGIANS, IF ONLY BY ITS PROXIMITY TO THEIR BORDER AND THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING AND/OR LEASING LNG TANKERS.

4. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH ARGUMENTATION IN PARA 2 ABOVE, WE HOPE IT WILL AUTHORIZE EMBASSY A) TO MAKE THE NECESSARY POINTS WITH KENDALL WHEN HE COMES TO OSLO SO THAT HE WILL CONVEY MESSAGE TO THE NORWEGIANS, AND B) TO INFORM UNDER-SECRETARY SVENNEVIG INDEPENDENTLY OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHERE THE PROJECT STANDS, IF KENDALL OBJECTS TO HAVING ECONOMIC OFFICER ACCOMPANY HIM, AND MONITOR WHAT IS SAID.

5. UNLESS DEPARTMENT HAS OBJECTION, WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF EMBASSY MOSCOW WOULD REQUEST KENDALL TO STOP BY AND SEE US. ALSO APPRECIATE KNOWING HIS ETA IN OSLO.
CROWE

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NNN

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